[2nd March 1955

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. It seems to be a mineral oil which is also sometimes mixed with coconut oil. The step to be taken in this matter is to send a sample of it for analysis and then punish the offender."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Are the offenders men or women? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Offenders are both men and women. Probably there are more women offenders." (Laughter.)

9-10 a.m. SRI M. R. RAMACHANDRAN :—" Sir, milk is adulterated and coffee powder also is adulterated and when these two are mixed does the case get complicated and is the punishment enhanced? "

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, the Corporation of Madras has frequently, year in and year out, been bringing to the notice of the Government that adulteration of foodstuffs has increased chiefly because the fines have been going down from an average of Rs. 50 to Rs. 20 now. The Corporation has also made representations to the Government that a Special Magistrate may be appointed for hearing the cases brought up by the municipality. May I know whether the Government have considered this suggestion? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, a separate question may be put."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, are the Government aware that very often cases are brought against petty dealers in collusion with them for statistical purposes and also to cover big dealers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I have no such information. The hon. Member can kindly give me the information he has at his disposal."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" Sir, is there any basis for the inference of the Hon. Minister that women are more responsible for these offences of adulteration than men? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I am left to infer this from the question of the hon. Member from Pudukottai."

Closure of the Agricultural Demonstrator's Office, Kanhangad

* 1932 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Demonstrator's Office at Kanhangad, South Kanara, was closed from 1st December 1954; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

2nd March 1955]

"(b) The Agricultural Depot at Kanhangad has since been ordered to be reopened."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—"Sir, the agricultural Depot at Kanhangad was opened only last year. May I know why it was ordered to be closed?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"Sir, this area is under the National Extension Service Scheme. I found that there were Special Extension Service Officers belonging to the Agricultural Department in this area and, in addition, there were also the normal demonstrators. The Government therefore issued an order that the normal officers might be taken out of this area and the whole district might be reorganized with more demonstrators for the areas outside the National Extension Service Scheme. In accordance with this order, the demonstrator at Kanhangad was withdrawn but, in the meanwhile, adequate arrangements had not been made for this area. As I have already stated, the Government have since ordered the reopening of the depot at Kanhangad."

Guinea-worm in South Arcot

* 1033 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the names of the taluks in South Arcot district where guinea worm is largely prevalent?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"Guinea-worm is prevalent in all the taluks of South Arcot district except Chidambaram taluk."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—"Sir, may I know whether preventive and curative measures have been taken and, if so, what they are and with what results?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"Sir, I have already answered this question just a few days ago and I said that the preventive measures that were taken are conversion of step wells into draw-wells, repeated chlorination of the water, the introduction of cyclopicidal fish and the advice given to the people to drink filtered water and water that is boiled."

Gramasevaks in Tiruchirappalli

* 1034 *Q.*—SRI M. PALANIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Gramasevaks in the Tiruchirappalli district under the Community Projects and National Extension Service Scheme; and

(b) how many of them are Harijans?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—"(a) Under the National Extension Service Scheme, 40 Gramasevaks are employed in Tiruchirappalli district. The Community Projects Scheme is not in operation in this district.

"(b) One."